PROGRESS OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME



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PREFACE

The Constitution of India lays it down that "the State shall promote with a special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation" This directive is based on the recognition that a democracy cannot attain its full stature if any section of the community remains educationally or otherwise backward and weak. A democratic State must therefore adopt special measures for the promotion of the educational interests of all such sections for it is only through education that individuals and groups can develop their natural virtues of body mind and spirit.

The present Brochure seeks to give a brief account of the working of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Scheme which was introduced with a view to encourage the spread of education among these sections of the Indian people. It is hoped that it will stimulate interest in the subject and promote greater efforts for enlarging educational facilities for these communities so as to enable them to take their rightful place in society

New Delhi,
18th December 1952

HUMAYUN KABIR

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Introductory

Social and other disabilities of the so-called "Untouchable classes" have attracted the attention of social and religious reformers throughout the ages, but it is only in modern times that organised State effort has been undertaken to remove them. In the first decade of the Century the late Mr Gokhale pressed for the provision by the State of universal, compulsory free primary education. The implementation of such a programme would have benefited all sections of the people but there is no doubt that the greatest beneficiaries would have been the educationally and socially backward communities. Demands for State action to provide them with increased facilities of education continued to be made from time to time but it was not till 1944 that definite provision for the purpose was made in the Central Budget.

The last 30 years have seen growing public concern about the need of special measures for the spread of education among these classes. Mahatma Gandhi made the removal of untouchability one of the main planks in the Congress platform. Tagore wrote some of his finest poetry in denunciation of the indignities which they suffered. Social reformers, educators and writers worked to improve their condition through the spread of education among them. The introduction of Provincial Autonomy and the formation of popular governments in 1937 gave further impetus to such programmes. Measures for the educational and economic welfare of the Scheduled Castes, as these so-called untouchable classes have been called since the enactment of the Government of India Act 1935, became an important part of the activities of all State Governments.

In 1943, a proposal was made for the provision of Central funds for grant of scholarships to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes for education in scientific and

technical subjects in India and abroad The Gov... of India accepted the proposal and instituted in 1944 Scheduled Castes Scholarships Scheme with an initial grant of Rs. 3 lakhs on the basis of a five-year scheme I the first year of the Scheme only 114 scholarships were awarded at a cost of less than Rs 50 000/ The number of applicants and awards grew rapidly and in 1945-46 scholarships were awarded for higher studies in foreign countries This was done on the advice of the Board stituted to advise Government on the operation of the Scheme but as the results were not satisfactory the Board reviewed the situation the next year It also took into consideration the fact that deserving students from such classes were eligible for awards under the General Overseas Scholarships Scheme of the Central Government. The Board accordingly advised the Government that the benefit to these Classes would be greater if instead of sending abroad a few students of mediocre ability a larger number of students were given scholarships to complete their education within the country The Government accepted the advice and have since then restricted the scope of the Scheme to scholarships within the country

Demands for the expansion of the Scheme grew with each succeeding year and became more insistent after the attainment of independence In 1948 students of the Scheduled Tribes were brought within the scope of the Scheme by providing an additional grant of Rs. 50 000/- for scholarships to them The Scheme was further widened in 1949-50 by increasing the provision to Rs 10 lakhs and extending its benefits to students belonging to other Backward Classes as well Successive years have seen further increases in the provision under this Scheme The provision for 1950-51 was Rs. 12 lakhs which was increased to Rs 15 lakhs in 1951 52, and Rs 17½ lakhs in 1952 53 Addressing the Central Advisory Board of Education in March 1952 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Minister for Education said "We realise that even this is not adequate but I am sure you will agree that to raise the figure of Rs 3½ lakhs to Rs 17½ lakhs in the course of three years is not an inconsiderable achievement and is an earnest of the Government's solicitude for the welfare of these Classes I can assure you that we intend to add to the amount at the earliest possible opportunity" Since then the provision for 1952-53 has been increased to Rs. 30 lakhs

How the Scheme functions

The scholarships under the scheme are awarded to students from these Classes pursuing post matriculation education in India on a recommendation of a specially constituted Scholarships Board. This Board was first constituted by the Minister for Education in 1944 with a Chairman and four members. Its function is to assist and advise the Government in the formulation of general policy in the award of scholarships to students belonging to Scheduled Castes. There is a sub-committee of the Board which screens the large number of applications that are received every year and advises the Board on the final selection.

The functions as well as the membership of the Board were extended in 1949-50 when the Scheme was enlarged to include the Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. At present it consists of 12 members of whom five are Members of the Parliament. Of these, three represent the Scheduled Castes, one represents the Scheduled Tribes and one the Backward Classes. Apart from the fact that the M. P. Members of the Board represent the general electorate they also bring into the deliberations of the Board a personal and direct knowledge of the conditions and requirements of these Classes in different parts of the country. The Educational Adviser to the Government of India is Chairman of the Board.

The Board is constituted every year in the month of April by the Minister for Education. The first meeting of the Board is usually held in the month of May in order to lay down the general policy for the award of scholarships during the year to take stock of the previous year's work and to consider any other important matters relating to the Scheme. The primary consideration in the award of scholarships is the merit of the candidates, but for their guidance the Board, while making recommendations, take into consideration the population and backwardness of these Classes in each State and sometimes in different regions of the same State.

The Scholarships Scheme is given due publicity through advertisement in almost all the leading English as well as the major Indian languages papers in the country during the month of June. The last date for the receipt of applications is generally fixed for July 31, by which time almost

all the post matric institutions have finished their admissions after the declaration of results of different examinations.

These scholarships are tenable in India including Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim and are awarded on merit to students pursuing studies in recognised institutions in India in the following courses mentioned in order of preference —

(a) Medicine and allied subjects including Nursing

(b) Engineering and Architecture

(c) Agriculture Forestry and Veterinary Science

(d) Technology

(e) Science

(f) Education and Social Service

(g) Humanities (including Arts) Social Science and Fine Arts

(h) Commerce

(i) Law and Library Science

Applications for these scholarships begin to pour in in large numbers into the Ministry of Education from the second week of July till the beginning of August 8 213 applications were received in 1951 52 and nearly 11 000 applications during the current year It can be safely said that as a result of this Scheme thousands of young men and women who would not otherwise have done so are enabled to study beyond the Matriculation stage Some 4,200 students get a definite chance to study in the post matric institutions of the country while about 1 700 are allowed to continue their previous courses of study

Method of Selection

It may be of interest to know in some detail the procedure of selecting students for the award of these scholarships Each application on receipt is thoroughly checked and the eligibility of the candidate for the scholarship determined particularly with regard to the caste to which he or she belongs. For this purpose lists are maintained which contain nearly 2,500 castes and sub-castes affecting these three Classes of society Applications of eligible candidates are indexed and summarised These summaries are cyclostyled State-wise and sets of papers are

circulated amongst the members of the Selection Committee in advance The Selection Committee holds prolonged sittings from the third week of August and recommends the most suitable applicants to the Board. The Board reviews the selections and it is only after the Board and the Government have approved the selections that awards are announced to the selected candidates through the heads of their institutions. Every effort is made to make the selections as objective as possible. The amount of work in such scrutiny *involving thousands of man-hours*, can be better imagined than described.

The heads of institutions are required to submit to the Board a statement at the end of each term in regard to the progress and general conduct of the students in receipt of scholarships. If it appears at any time that a scholar has by reason of his own act or default failed to make satisfactory progress or has been guilty of misconduct, the scholarship is cancelled or stopped or suspended. The practice generally followed is that the second half yearly instalment of the scholarship is paid subject to the satisfactory progress of the scholar in the first half year. If the progress of the scholar during the period is reported to be unsatisfactory and the head of the institution does not recommend continuance of the scholarship for the second half year the payment of the second instalment is kept in abeyance till the declaration of the result of the examination at the end of the academic year. If the scholar passes this examination, the second half-yearly instalment is paid, otherwise the scholarship is discontinued for the second half of the academic year

This practice has yielded good results. The students selected for scholarships have to work hard from the beginning of the academic year. In this way alone can they secure the satisfactory progress reports for each term essential for the continuance of their scholarships. The progress in respect of 1951-52 scholars has been, in general, reported as very satisfactory. Out of 2,834 scholarships given during that year the second half yearly instalment was suspended in the case of only 27 scholars showing unsatisfactory progress for the first half year

The scholarships are ordinarily tenable for the full duration of the course, but on a year-to-year basis. Every year the scholarships are therefore awarded partly to

"Fresh" applicants and partly to "Renewal" applicants. The latter category of candidates are given preferential treatment in the award of scholarships to enable them to complete the course of study for which they were originally selected. Generally those scholarship holders who are promoted to the next higher class and those who pass a University Examination securing 45 per cent. or more of the aggregate marks are held eligible for the renewal of their scholarships in the following year Women candidates who successfully complete their academic year are given special consideration in the award of scholarships for the next higher course of study Out of 14 641 scholarships awarded under the Scheme since its inception, 9,595 were given to "Fresh" candidates and 5 046 as Renewals" Nearly 60 per cent of the scholarships awarded in a year are renewed in the following year About 5 per cent. of them are not considered eligible for renewal of scholarships in view of their poor progress in studies This means that the remaining scholars viz., about 35 per cent. of the total number of candidates awarded scholarships in a year complete their course of study and enter a suitable field of employment or occupation.

The payment of a scholarship is made in each case in two half yearly instalments, the first of which is paid in September-October and the second in January February Scholars have to acknowledge these periodical payments on the prescribed form. The maintenance allowance included in the scholarships varies from Rs. 27/ to Rs 65/ per month depending on the subject of study In fixing the amount of each scholarship the Board takes into account the probable expenditure under—(a) Fees, if any payable by the scholars to the College or University for enrolment, tuition games and examination (b) maintenance charges from the beginning of the month in which the scholar joins a class up to the month in which the examination is held at the end of the academic year whether the student lives in a hostel or is a day scholar (including maintenance during holidays and expenditure on books stationery etc)

The amount of the scholarship is fixed at a figure calculated to relieve the scholars and their guardians of all financial anxiety during the period of study and to enable them to live a normal and full university life amongst students whose social or economic positions do not impose any disabilities.

The Central Scholarships Scheme is operated in close co-operation with the State Governments' Scholarships Schemes. The desirability of a uniform policy with reference to all States cannot be over-emphasised. No candidate is allowed to hold simultaneously scholarships from the Central Government and from the State Government or any other source, but in cases where he secures both he is allowed to choose between them.

A statement containing State-wise information regarding the applications received and scholarships awarded to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes by the Government of India during 1952-53 is given at Appendix I.

This Scheme is being administered by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, primarily because of its importance from an all-India point of view. It is part of a definite educational policy which requires planning and co-ordination, and because of its national importance, can be handled properly only by a central agency. By awarding scholarships from the Centre the Government of India is able to give due consideration to the requirements of different sections and areas within each State and also develop among the recipients a sense of Indian nationhood.

How this Scheme has benefited these Classes

The grant of these scholarships to the backward classes of the community has been rightly considered a great national investment. It has afforded valuable opportunities to students belonging to these backward classes of receiving higher education that because of their economic backwardness, they could not ordinarily have aspired to receive. This Scheme has enabled thousands of these students to pursue courses of studies beyond the Matriculation stage in subjects like Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Technology Science and Arts, etc. It has tended to develop in them a consciousness of their responsibilities as citizens of a free and progressive country. It has taught them rules of personal discipline and hygiene. It has also created permanently good habits and a desire for wholesome and healthy living. It has trained them to solve not only their individual and personal difficulties but also to realise and understand the problems facing their neighbours and the country.

The Scheme has also a direct bearing on the co condition of these Classes by opening to them new aven of knowledge and opportunity. Training in general acade courses and professions equip their members for efficie work in different fields of activity. It also throws open them new professions and services. It offers them opportunity to become better businessmen agricultur and skilled workers. A proportion of posts under Government are reserved for candidates from the Schedu ed Castes and Scheduled Tribes but in many cases suit candidates are not available and the posts are either fi through open recruitment or by candidates with inade qualifications. By training a large number of students t Scholarships Scheme is increasing the number of qualifi persons among these Classes and thus helping in th economic and social progress.

These Backward Classes have been the victims social disabilities for centuries and they often develo sense of inferiority and frustration. Living in the mi of dirt and squalor they tend to lose initiative optimism. The Scholarships Scheme enables students these Classes to stand on an equal footing with st belonging to other communities. They share the same f lities in hostel life and participate on an equal footing games and clubs. Fraternisation in academic life and play ground is bound to help such students to shake off t inferiority complex and develop a sense of equality self respect. Education available to them under th Scheme has thus started an egalitarian process and wi contribute to their social and moral progress.

2,834 scholarships were sanctioned to the Schedu Castes Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Clas during 1951-52. The subject wise distribution of th scholarships is shown at Appendix II. It will be seen th a large number of students are now obtaining hi education in subjects like Medicine Engineering Technology. Out of a total of 2,631 awards as many 899 were for professional 104 for post graduate and 55 graduate studies. If the Scheme i maintained even at th level for ten years the annual out turn of qualified fessional and non professional personnel to take their fu share in the responsibilities and services of the cou will be appreciable. It is however expected to expand scheme as more funds are available. A larger number

students will thus be able to take up higher studies not only in subjects like Humanities and the Sciences, but also in all professional courses and specialised training. The subject-wise distribution of scholarships awarded during 1952-53 is shown in Appendix III.

The number of scholarships awarded and the expenditure incurred up to the year 1951 52 in pursuance of the Scheme is shown in Appendix IV. The statement speaks for itself and indicates the progress the Scheme has made since the year of its inception 1944-45. Much ground has been covered in this short period (especially since 1947-48) but much more still remains to be done.

Conclusion

"Swaraj (or independence) wrote Gandhiji in Young India of the 25th May 1921 "is a meaningless term if we desire to keep a fifth of India under perpetual subjection Inhuman ourselves, we may not plead before the Throne for deliverance from the inhumanity of others" Democratic India must therefore make the improvement of the status and condition of the weaker groups and under-privileged sections of the community one of its first tasks. Victims of misfortune millions of men and women have submitted to this fate for thousands of years. The Constitution provides a special machinery for their uplift and most of the States now have their own departments to look after their interests.

The attempts of Government as well as non-official agencies to raise the economic, cultural and educational status of the Backward Classes and to put an end to the disabilities under which they have suffered for centuries can succeed only to the extent to which they themselves develop a spirit of self-help and resolve to play their part in the life of the community. They will need some extraneous support at the beginning but they can progress only if they recognise that these props are temporary and utilise them only in order to gain the strength necessary to stand on their own feet. The Central Government is taking steps in this behalf both directly and through grants given to the various State Governments. The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Scheme is one important element in this programme for the *rehabilitation* and progress of these unfortunate sections of the community

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APPENDIX I

Statement Showing State-wise Number of Applications received and Scholarships awarded by the Government of India during 1952 53 to Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Students

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of applications received				Number of Scholarships awarded			
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Total	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Total
1	Assam	75	313	143	531	62	293	60	415
2	Bihar	206	530	934	1670	194	511	215	920
3	Bombay	132	15	130	277	126	14	125	265
4	Madhya Pradesh	340	86	690	1116	311	82	209	602
5	Madras	517	49	2110	2676	490	46	527	1063
6	Orissa	45	36	64	145	42	33	63	138
7	Punjab	286	6	3	295	250	5	3	258
8	Uttar Pradesh	1411	7	838	2256	881	7	176	1064
9	West Bengal	408	61	52	521	336	57	53	446
10	Hyderabad	37	3	127	167	37	2	49	88
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1	--	2	3	1		1	2
12	Madhya Bharat	39	1	21	61	34	1	20	55

13	Mysore	197		439	626	180	...	49	229
14	Pepsu	27		11	38	25		8	33
15	Rajasthan	18		57	75	16		51	67
16	Saurashtra	6		45	51	5		41	46
17	Travancore-Cochin	4	1	77	82	2		26	28
18	Ajmer	10		11	21	10		11	21
19	Bhopal	3		2	5	3		2	5
20	Bilaspur							...	...
21	Coorg			15	15			13	13
22	Delhi	54		1	55	49		...	49
23	Himachal Pradesh	5			5	5		1	6
24	Kutch			...			...	...	...
25	Manipur	...	21	...	21	...	21		21
26	Tripura	5	21	1	27	4	20	1	25
27	Vindhya Pradesh	2	...	15	17	2		15	17
28	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	...	...	14	14		...	13	13
29	Sikkim	...	2	3	5		2	2	4
	TOTAL	3828	1152	5795	10775	3065	1094	5734	5893

APPENDIX II

Subject wise statement of Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships awarded during 1951-52.

Course of Study	No. of scholarship-holders			
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward Classes	Total
(a) *Professional Education.*				
Medical	154	41	151	346
Engineering	193	29	119	341
Agriculture	42	8	40	90
Veterinary	3	4	2	9
Technology	10	3	3	16
Law	43	18	14	75
Teacher's Training	9	7	3	19
Fine Arts	3			3
(b) *Post-Graduate Stage.*				899
Ph. D	3			3
M. Sc.	16	3	13	32
M. A.	22	11	16	49
M. Com.	5	2	13	20
(c) *Graduate Stage.*				104
B. Sc.	99	34	78	211
B. A.	154	111	43	308
B. Com.	27	4	6	37
(d) *Under-Graduate Stage*				556
I. Sc.	434	98	92	624
I. A.	333	186	48	567
I. Com.	54	16	14	84
				1,275
Total	1,604	575	655	2,834

APPENDIX III

Subject-wise statement of Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships awarded during 1952-53

Course of Study	No. of Scholarship-holders			
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other backward Classes	Total
(a) *Professional Education.*				
Medical	236	52	341	629
Engineering	250	32	377	659
Agriculture	59	11	80	150
Veterinary	2	5	2	9
Technology	16	2	2	20
Law	119	19	30	168
Teachers Training	27	11	45	83
Fine Arts	3	1	4	8
				1 726
(b) *Post-Graduate Stage.*				
Ph. D	4	—	3	7
M. Sc.	25	4	35	64
M. A.	138	29	27	194
M. Com.	5		6	11
				276
(c) *Graduate Stage*				
B. Sc.	161	36	116	313
B. A.	235	190	118	543
B. Com.	53	19	25	97
				953
(d) *Under-Graduate Stage.*				
I Sc.	807	179	340	1 326
I A.	812	460	159	1,431
I Com.	113	44	24	181
				2,938
TOTAL	3,065	1,094	1 734	5,893

APPENDIX IV

Statement showing number of scholarships awarded and expenditure incurred up to 1951 52 on Government of India Scholarships to Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes students pursuing Post Matriculation Education.

Year	Number of Scholarships awarded				Expenditure incurred (In Rupees)			
	Sche duled Castes	Sche duled Tribes	Back ward Classes	Total	Sche duled Castes	Sche duled Tribes	Back ward Classes	Total
1944 45	114			114	47,697			47,697
1945 46	292			292	2 11,962			2,11,962
1946-47	527			527	4 70,397			4 70,397
1947 48	655			655	5 39,307			5 39,307
1948-49	647	84		731	4,52,317	45,986		4 98,303
1949-50	879	186	349	1,414	5 15,512	94,965	2,46,327	8,56,804
1950-51	1 316	348	517	2,181	7,26,651	1,85 301	3 57 504	12,69,456
1951 52	1 604	575	655	2,834	8 17,976	2,81 780	4,41 186	15,40,942
1952-53	3,065	1,094	1 734	5 893	14,50,000	5,00,000	10,50,000	30,00,000
Total	9,099	2,257	3,255	14,641	52,31 919	11,08,032	20,95,017	84 34,868

In addition, 22 scholarships were awarded for studies abroad during 1945 46.

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